

# Morgan Hill Police Department

## 2015 Annual Report

January 2015 - December 2015



### Special points of interest:

- > Our Dispatchers answered 13,693 9-1-1 Calls in 2015 compared to 11,539 9-1-1 Calls answered in 2014
- > At night, we have 3 Officers, 1 Corporal, 1 Multi-Service Officer and 1 Sergeant that patrol our City and respond to calls for service
- > Our Records Division has expanded their Front Counter hours to better accommodate our Community, 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

### 2015 Was a Busy Year for MHPD

The good work done by the men and women of the Morgan Hill Police Department is clearly seen in following table. The table lists each municipal police department in Santa Clara County based on the percentage of reports taken by officers that resulted in an arrest. Also shown is the number of reports written per officer for each department listed.

This information is important to our department because it shows that our officers are practicing proactive policing, writing quality reports, and conducting appropriate follow-up which results in justice for the victims.

But we should also notice that our department statistics don't show everything our sworn and

civilian staff assist with. Take a look at our Facebook page. There have been over 6,000 Likes in 2015 and even more supportive comments posted. Our Department has found social

media to be a helpful tool that can assist us with our day-to-day work and keep our community and Facebook followers up-to-date with timely information.



City	% of Reports Involving an Arrest	Arrests	Reports	Reports per Officer	Officers
Morgan Hill	51%	1,998	3,918	100	39
Palo Alto	45%	3,476	7,751	86	90
Campbell	39%	2,192	5,609	144	39
Gilroy	39%	2,730	7,009	117	60
Santa Clara	36%	5,256	14,668	98	149
Milpitas	32%	2,441	7,728	94	82
Mountain View	25%	1,978	7,962	83	96
Los Gatos/Monte Sereno	24%	938	3,285	84	39
San Jose	24%	19,224	80,025	86	930
Sunnyvale	24%	2501	10,556	99	107
Los Altos	18%	251	1,384	46	30

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### Driving Under the Influence

Driving Under the Influence of alcohol or drugs is a serious situation that can cause injury or death not only to the driver of the vehicle or bicycle, but also to those around the impaired driver.

Unfortunately, Morgan Hill experiences a disproportionate number of drunk driving incidents, and in 2015 we saw

a significant increase in the number of Driving Under the Influence (D.U.I.) cases compared to 2014.

Our Department takes a zero tolerance stance against Driving Under the Influence

and would like people to know it is never ok to drink and drive.

Plan ahead and designate a driver so you don't find yourself in this situation.



Category	2014	2015	% Change
Driving Under the Influence	212	270	24%

## Vehicle Thefts and Vehicle Break-Ins

It can take less than a minute for a thief to break your car window and snatch valuables that are visible or worse yet, drive away in your vehicle.

In 2015 we saw a decrease of vehicle thefts but an increase in general larceny, which includes thefts of possessions from a vehicle.

Vehicle thefts and break-ins can't always be deterred, but there are things that can be done to make either taking

your vehicle or items from inside it more difficult.

Be vigilant in preventing crime by being aware of your surroundings when parking and leaving your vehicle, remove items that would tempt your car to be broken into, lock your car, and report any suspicious activity.

Category	2013	2014	2015
<i>Motor Vehicle Thefts</i>	98	121	110
<i>Larceny</i>	418	372	520



## Honoring Our Police Officers



In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week.

National Police Week is a way to honor the many individuals who work in law enforcement throughout the U.S. There are many different ways agencies

and communities recognize this special week. In Washington D.C. law enforcement personnel gather for a series of events including a Candlelight Vigil.

Another way that our community can help us recognize officers who are currently serving or have died in the line of duty is to display a blue light at your home or

business. By displaying a blue light, you can send a message that you support not only your local police officers but officers throughout the U.S. The color blue is symbolic of peace, and the light is guiding the officers to safety.



## Traffic Issues

Traffic issues continue to be a concern to the citizens of Morgan Hill and also to the Police Department. Traffic congestion, traffic incidents and violations, prolonged road work, and weather events are examples of traffic issues that drivers experience in their day-to-day driving. Some of these issues are beyond everyone's control, and some are not.

Our Department is involved in

traffic issues in a variety of ways. Traffic enforcement is the most visible and the type of and location vary, but it is not uncommon to see officers in the downtown area, near busy intersections, at our schools during pick-up and drop-off times, and in the area of large events around the city.

The number of traffic citations given has fluctuated over the past few years, and this could

be attributed to the reinstatement of our Traffic Motor Unit, community outreach campaigns and directed traffic enforcement campaigns.

If you have a traffic issue, you may submit your concern at [www.morganhill.ca.gov](http://www.morganhill.ca.gov) or call our traffic hotline at (408) 776-0460.



## Crime Trends in Morgan Hill



Part 1 Crimes					
Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012 – 2014 Average
Homicide	0	1	0	<b>1</b>	0.33
Rape	12	10	3	<b>4</b>	8
Robbery	13	10	21	<b>16</b>	15
Aggravated Assault	26	45	37	<b>50</b>	36
Simple Assault	159	121	88	<b>112</b>	123
Burglary	157	164	119	<b>100</b>	147
Theft	464	418	372	<b>520</b>	418
Vehicle Theft	74	98	121	<b>110</b>	98
Arson	6	1	7	<b>3</b>	5
Part 1 Crimes Total	911	868	768	<b>916</b>	850

Comparing the number of crimes for each category listed can show increases and decreases year-to-year and can be used as a tool to assist in measuring the severity of crimes committed within a given jurisdiction.

The categories represented on this chart are the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting categories that every law enforcement agency uses to report their data to the FBI each year.

Another important detail is the law enforcement agency's Clearance Rate, the percentage of the cases in the categories in the above chart that were solved or had an arrest made. Our Department has historically had a higher clearance rate for Part 1 Crimes Violent Crimes (first four categories listed in chart above) than the National Average. 2015 was no different for the Morgan Hill Police Department. Our clearance rate of 62% is higher than our 2014 clearance rate of 61% and the FBI's National Average of almost 48% in 2014.

## Parent Project



The Parent Project Program is presented by the Morgan Hill Police Department as a skill building program for parents of strong-minded juveniles. Morgan Hill Police School Resource Officer Jeff Brandon leads this program by offering evening classes throughout the year to families in Morgan Hill. Parents not only attend the course, but also receive on-going support to help them maintain their success as a family.

The program is an innovative way to reduce juvenile disobedience and improve community policing efforts by giving parents the skills necessary to address challenging adolescent behaviors.

If your family or a family you know can benefit from this program, please contact Officer Jeff Brandon at (669) 253-4920.





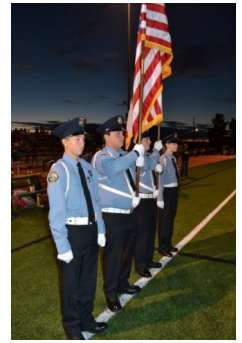
## MHPD Explorer POST 811

In partnership with the Boy Scouts of America, our Department proudly sponsors the Learning for Life Explorer Program. This co-ed, career-based volunteer program is for local students between the ages of 14 and 21. The program provides young adults the chance to learn about law enforcement through training opportunities and interaction with law enforcement professionals.

Explorers also assist with non-hazardous duties as well as participate in community and department events. Our Explorer POST 811 strives to instill high morals, good judgment, active community participation, and the need

to balance success at school while being involved in activities outside school.

Please contact Corporal Scott Martin at (669) 253-4981 for more information.



## Shop With A Cop



Shop with a Cop is an opportunity for future leaders of our community to be awarded and recognized for their hard work and dedication to being role models. It is also a time for these children to have a positive interaction with a local police officer in order to foster better relations and change perceptions.

In December, over 110 4th graders from all Morgan Hill Unified School District schools were paired with an officer to shop at our local Target store using their \$100 award that was given to them by the Morgan Hill Police Officers' Association and the South County Youth Task Force.

## Countywide Crime Rates

This chart represents the changes in crime rates from 2014 to 2015 for each city in Santa Clara County.

The crime rate is based on the number of crimes reported for each 100,000 population.

The crime rate provides a measure of the severity of a crime problem within a given jurisdiction but is only one factor in assessing the safety of a community.

N/A = Contract City with SCC Sheriff's Office

City or Town	Population	Officers	2014	2015
Monte Sereno	3,500	N/A	1000	1286
Los Altos Hills	8,396	N/A	1164	762
Los Gatos	29,500	39	2498	2698
Los Altos	30,288	30	1288	1265
Saratoga	31,001	N/A	912	1294
Campbell	41,119	39	4327	4395
Morgan Hill	42,068	39	1926	2177
Gilroy	53,000	60	4041	4485
Cupertino	60,668	N/A	1975	1889
Palo Alto	64,403	90	2062	2984
Milpitas	72,606	82	3873	3519
Mountain View	77,914	96	2713	3207
Santa Clara	120,245	149	3293	3419
Sunnyvale	148,028	107	1962	1919
San Jose	1,016,479	930	3254	3267
Average			2419	2571





### 9-1-1 Calls, Dispatchers and Officers

When you call 9-1-1, who answers your call? Morgan Hill Police Dispatchers are responsible for not only answering emergency calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but also for answering non-emergency calls, and handling a variety of tasks during their shift. At any given time, the dispatchers can be answering calls, dispatching police officers to crime situations, contacting other emergency response resources, and assisting police officers patrolling the City.

The chart below shows the number of 9-1-1 Calls dispatchers handled for 2014 and 2015 for selected cities in Santa Clara County. This number has increased in Morgan Hill each year and shows how our Dispatchers' responsibility for providing time-sensitive information has grown. In addition to showing how efficiently our team of 8 Dispatchers works, the chart's last column highlights the large number of 9-1-1 Call handled by each of our 39 Police Officers.



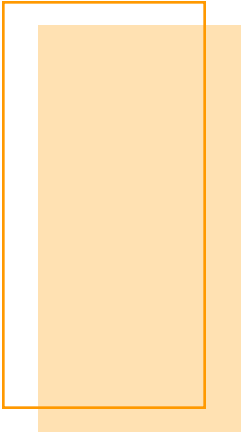
City	9-1-1 Calls in 2014	9-1-1 Calls per Officer in 2014	9-1-1 Calls in 2015	9-1-1 Call per Officer in 2015
Los Altos	6,186	206	5,741	191
Los Gatos/Monte Sereno	10,841	285	10,323	265
<b>Morgan Hill</b>	<b>11,539</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>13,693</b>	<b>351</b>
Campbell	15,924	379	14,611	375
Milpitas	24,677	305	22,527	275
Mountain View	26,253	273	24,324	253
Gilroy	27,691	477	28,575	476

### Elder Abuse

California elder abuse laws deal with both physical abuse or neglect directed toward a person who is 65 years old and older and financial abuse, commonly known as “senior fraud.” This is the fastest growing form of elder abuse, when someone illegally or improperly uses a vulnerable senior’s money or other property.

As the number of senior residences increases in the city, the police department has been conducting outreach to local senior citizens. In these sessions they discuss how to avoid being a victim of this crime and what to do if they are victimized. Although as many as 5 million cases may occur in the U.S. each year, law enforcement officials learn about only one in 25 cases.

If you or a loved one may have been a victim of either type of elder abuse, call the Morgan Hill Police Department at (408) 779-2101. Also, a free Senior Fraud Protection Kit is available by calling Home Instead Senior Care at (408) 722-9499.



## A Snapshot of Crimes in 2015

~ In February, officers responded to investigate a report of a person shot. Officers located the victim and were advised the victim's injuries were non-life threatening. The victim told officers he was shot after a verbal confrontation with two males.

~ In March, an officer utilized his patrol vehicle's Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) and located a stolen vehicle as it was driving in the opposite direction of the officer. The officer initiated a vehicle pursuit and the vehicle was forced to pull to the side of the road as its engine started to catch fire. After a short foot chase, both the driver and passenger were taken into custody and booked into the county jail.

~ In September, a local convenience store cashier was robbed at gun point and was struck in the face by the suspect. The suspect fled the scene with an unknown amount of cash. It is believed that this suspect is the same suspect as in robberies that had occurred in Campbell and San Jose and committed the following robbery.

~ In September, an armed robbery occurred at a local gaming store where employees and customers were held at gun point. After taking items from the store, the suspects fled the scene. One of the suspects was seen running into a local apartment complex and barricaded himself in the attic of the apartment building. The

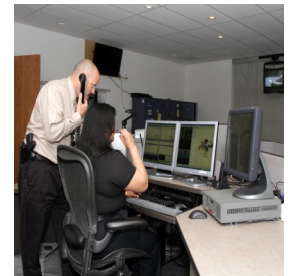
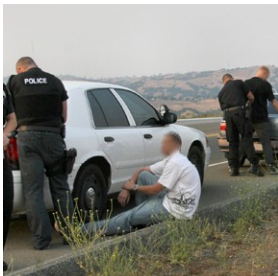
suspect remained barricaded overnight and was apprehended 26 hours later with assistance of the Gilroy/Morgan Hill Regional SWAT Team and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Emergency Response Team.

~ In October, during a vehicle stop, officers searched the vehicle and located marijuana in plain view along with multiple GPS units, and a purse containing personal items that did not belong to the driver. The driver was arrested on several charges, including theft and possession of stolen property.

~ In October, an officer located a suspect vehicle related to residential burglaries parked at a local motel. The driver of the vehicle was contacted and

during a search of the motel room, narcotics paraphernalia, stolen property, and a key to a stolen vehicle were found. The driver and the other room guest were arrested for these crimes and outstanding warrants and transported and booked into the county jail.

~ In November, officers were dispatched to a hit and run collision involving a pedestrian. The pedestrian was struck by a vehicle while walking on the shoulder of the road. The victim was transported to the hospital for their injuries. The driver was booked into county jail for felony hit and run and their passenger was arrested for outstanding warrants.



## MHPD Offers New Service to Residents

Improper disposal of unused medications is a serious problem. If flushed down the toilet, the chemicals contaminate our water supply; if thrown into the trash, scavengers may retrieve them and use them to get high.

Recently our Department has installed a secure container in the lobby of our police building. The public is invited to stop by during business hours and dispose of unused or expired medications (prescription or over-the-counter) by safely placing these

articles in the clearly marked bin.

There are three easy steps to follow:

~ At home, obscure personal information from medicine containers to protect your identity.

~ Before drop off, remove pills from original containers and place these containers with your household recycling. Then place pills in a clear zipper bag. (Keep liquids and creams in original packaging.)

~ Place zipper pill bag & liquids and creams into the bin.

This program is financed by a grant from the Santa Clara Valley Water District. For more, information see [www.dontrushtoflush.org](http://www.dontrushtoflush.org).





Special Olympics Northern California and MHPD

The Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, providing year-round training and competitions to more than 4.5 million athletes in 170 countries. Each year the men and women of the Morgan Hill Police Department support the Northern California Chapter of this worthy event in two ways.

In the beginning of June, the Special Olympics Flame of Hope is escorted through California by hundreds of law enforcement personnel. Morgan Hill Police Department personnel participate in the Torch Run and receive the torch from the Santa

Clara County Sheriff's Office at the corner of Monterey and Middle Avenue in San Martin and will then run or bike to the intersection of Monterey and Cochrane. There the torch is passed to the San Jose Police Department who will move the torch through their city as it makes its way to the Summer Games location on the UC Davis campus.

The other event is Tip-A-Cop where law enforcement officers trade in their handcuffs to spend time at a local restaurant serving meals to the restaurant's patrons. Morgan Hill Police Officers have participated by serving as

celebrity wait staff at our Morgan Hill Chili's and recently at Red Robin also here in Morgan Hill. 100% of their "tips" are donated to the Special Olympics.

The public is invited to show their support through cheering for our personnel during the Torch Run and dining out for Tip-A-Cop. Watch our Facebook page for the upcoming dates.



Traffic Collisions

Traffic Collisions	2012 Full Year	2013 Full Year	2014 Full Year	Previous 3 Yr Avg	2015 Full Year
With Injury	80	78	91	83	88
Property Damage	139	122	118	126	121
Total Accidents	219	200	209	209	209

Traffic collisions can happen for a variety of reasons. Distracted driving, speeding, recklessness, running stop lights or stop signs are just to name a few causes. Sometimes traffic collisions cause injuries to those involved. While we have seen an increase in collisions with injuries from our previous 3 year average, the increase is minor. Comparing total collisions for 2015 to the previous 3 year average, you will see that the numbers of collisions has remained the same. The lack of increase in the total number of collisions despite our community's increased population and traffic is a result of our emphasis on traffic enforcement as well as outreach and education. Through outreach and education, members of our community learn to become more aware drivers who practice safer driving. If you would like more information about traffic enforcement, outreach and education, please contact Traffic Corporal Scott Silva at (669) 253-4997.



# Morgan Hill Police Department

16200 Vineyard Boulevard  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

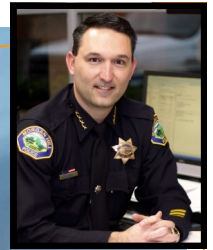
[www.morganhill.ca.gov](http://www.morganhill.ca.gov)



Business Phone: 408-776-7300

24-Hour Non-Emergency Phone:  
408-779-2101

For Emergencies, Call 9-1-1



## *A Message From Chief David L. Swing*

As you have seen on the previous pages, the men and women of the Morgan Hill Police Department have had quite a year. We reached new heights in many measurable areas of productivity and also in immeasurable ways by partnering and engaging with the community

Please remember to shine a blue light in support of law enforcement during the week of May 15 in honor of those who have fallen in the line of duty and to demonstrate your support for your local heroes and to join us on August 2nd in downtown for National Night Out.

I take great pride in being able to share with you our successes of 2015 and for having the opportunity to inform you of the progress we are making in many areas that go beyond our day-to-day work.

When you cross paths with one of our Officers, Dispatchers, Records Specialists, Multi-Service Officers, Explorers, or Volunteers In Policing, I invite you to take a moment to say Hello. This simple gesture starts the trail of community engagement and partnerships, both of which are important to our Department and are reinforced by our Mission Statement.

On behalf of the men and women of the MHPD, thank you for the opportunity to serve and we look forward to our Department continuing to provide the community with professional and proactive service and strengthening community partnerships so together we can keep making Morgan Hill a safe place to live, work, and visit.

## Looking Towards 2016

Continuing the work of our Outcome Based Strategic Plan, our Department looks forward to using technology and innovative ways to reduce crime and traffic collisions as well as increasing the proficiency of our staff.

By fostering our community partnerships and exploring different philosophies of

community engagement, we will not only help increase the trust and confidence in our Department, but also help our community and visitors feel safe.

We will also use the Public Safety Master Plan to guide us as we look forward to increasing staffing levels of our

sworn and civilian staff to keep up with our growing city's needs.

Meanwhile, we will revisit our performance standards and measures to make sure they are in line with the City Council's Goals and Priorities and the changing needs of our community.